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## MILITARY RESPONSE OVERWHELMING (both to serve & to share)

Just as the Dunhams have always been quick to answer our country's "call to the colors," Dunhams & Dunham descendants have been prompt & generous in sharing their military memorabilia -- so much so that we doubt it will be possible to cram it all into a single issue. THANKS SO MUCH to all who have sent materials! For this reason, the present plan is to produce a 2nd military issue in the near future. (Thus if other readers have photos or articles to send, it isn't too late.)

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### MEMO REGARDING A FORTUNATE FAMILY

One way to gain appreciation of the number (quite vast) of Dunhams who have served their country in the earlier wars is to enter all the collected family groups on computer, as Editor Phyllis Kitson has been doing for some while. Many, many individuals are noted as having fought in the Revolutionary War, even more in the Civil War. Also, birth & death dates such as "1838-1862" seem to indicate many more who may not have been recorded as having fought in that war may well have done so. Of course we haven't received a single photo of men who were in the American Revolution (wonder why not?), but there is one letter (unfortunately undated, but written about 1906) that refers to one Dunham family's participation in the Revolution. It was written from Massachusetts by Olive Dunham Barrows (b. 1823)(8)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7) to her great-niece, Miriam Dunham Ferriss, who had written to Olive for family information when she wanted to join the D.A.R. Here is the pertinent excerpt: "I cannot give you accurate knowledge of my Grandfather Dunham because I have no dates to refer to. Jonathan Dunham, born in Mansfield, CT, was born between 1750 & 1760. As nearly as I can recollect, he died about 1840. He lived his whole life in Mansfield, & there he was buried. Now your cousin, S. C. Dunham of the Travelers Insurance Co., could give you the exact dates in this case as he is a Son of the Revolution & collected & made use of the information you desire when he became a Son of the Revolution. There is one little item which will have no bearing upon your case but may be of interest. My great grandfather ((Ebenezer, Jr.)) had 7 sons grown to manhood when the war broke out, 6 of whom were in the Continental Army. All might have been, but one was underage. This is a very remarkable record, & what is perhaps more wonderful, all came home & lived to a good old age." Checking it out, these men appear to have been: Eleazer (b. 1744); Daniel (b. 1748); Samuel (b. 1754); Jonathan (1758-1840); Stephen (b. 1761); James (b. 1763); & Nathaniel (b. 1766).

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# East Bruns. Honors patriot of Revolution

By JOHN McKEEGAN  
Home News staff writer

**EAST BRUNSWICK** — Rain fell hard yesterday on the patch of trees where Revolutionary War veteran Jehu Dunham lay surrounded by future homes, while 20 people marked the plot for posterity.

The Veterans Day ceremony brought together Middlesex County and local historians to dedicate a headstone to Dunham, a member of the prominent Dunham family, who joined the Middlesex County militia in 1777 at the age of 15. But the ceremony honored all veterans as those people attending honored this one veteran.

Dunham's grave, which had been vandalized and neglected, lies in the Obert Family plot on their former farm off Summerhill Road. The graveyard may contain the graves of more than 100 others, according to county historians.

Rev. Dr. John Hayward of the First Baptist Church of New Brunswick asked God to join those congregated to honor the dead soldier.

"We ask that you be present as we commemorate Jehu Dunham this afternoon," Hayward said. "We ask that on this Veterans Day 1988 that we live for what he stood for."

The ceremony came after a five year effort by Dr. Richard G. Durin, commissioner of the county Cultural & Heritage Commission, to confirm with historical documents the existence of Dunham's grave and then petition the U.S. Veterans Administration to commemorate this grave with a marker as they have graves of other Revolutionary War veterans around the country.

Jacqueline Brown Gerth, Dunham's great-great-granddaughter, came from her home in Glenview, Ill., with her husband, Floyd, to attend the ceremony. She thanked her U.S. Senators, Paul Simon (D) and Alan Dixon (D), who interceded to speed the process.

She said the ceremony was to honor not only Dunham, "but all men we have given so diligently."

"At our forefathers fought for 200 years ago, we must still continue today," said Mayor William Fox, adding that veterans of the Vietnam War should be remembered just as bravely as those of other wars.

Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission Chairman Estelle

Goldsmith, who is also active in the East Brunswick Historic Society, remarked how many historic sites there are in the township. "East Brunswick Township has always been proud of this heritage," she said.

Around the plot, piles of wood to build the more than 100 homes of the Summerhill Meadows development waited for workmen to come in drier weather. Mud surrounded the woods and foundations of future homes.

Within the plot, on a bed of ivy, graves were marked by blocks of stone but no words. Only Dunham's stone of white marble, installed last Friday, had an inscription: "Jehu Dunham, N.C. Militia, Rev. War, Sep 24 1761-April 1842."

Members of the Middlesex County Militia 2nd Regiment flanked the headstone as local officials and Gerth filled in Dunham's personal history between his birth and death.

Gerth said that Dunham's father, Elisha, may have been the son of Ephraim Dunham and Phoebe Smalley, which would make Jehu Dunham a descendent of Rev. Edmund Dunham who founded the Baptist Church in Piscataway.

Dunham was born in Washington, N.J., now known as South River, and entered the militia on Jan. 1, 1777, right after the battles of Princeton and Trenton. His company was in the Middlesex Brigade and he went daily, with up to 40 other men, to watch troop activity around the British-occupied city of New Brunswick.

Col. Lou Force, who led the 2nd Regiment honor guard, said Dunham probably served under Col. John Nielsen, the commander of the Middlesex Militia starting in 1775.

In the spring of 1778, Dunham was ordered to Woodbridge and in the fall of that year he fought in the Battle of Springfield. He was discharged in the fall of 1778 but later rejoined and served until 1782.

He filed for his war pension on Sept. 11, 1832, in Middlesex County Court, and received \$80.

In 1834 he asked for a raise in the pension. A friend, Runyon Barkeley, recommended the increase in a letter calling Dunham "true as steel to his country." Dunham received the increase.

"I'm indeed proud to be a descendent of such a man," Gerth said.



Members of the Middlesex County 2nd Regiment honor guard present arms during dedication of a tombstone for Revolutionary War veteran Jehu Dunham yesterday in East Brunswick.

Another item related to the American Revolution is this interesting clipping from a New Jersey newspaper of Nov. 1986, dealing with special honors accorded at that time to Jehu Dunham (1761-1842) (6) (Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Edmund 3, Ephraim 4, Elisha 5). It comes to us from Jacqueline Gerth, Glenview, IL, who, as is noted in the article, is a great-great-great-granddaughter

of Jehu. The gravestone shown in the picture clearly has his name, though you may not be able to see it here.





THIS PHOTO OF a Civil War soldier comes from Bill Wood, Stephens City, VA, & is not of a Dunham but of a Dunham's father-in-law. This very youthful soldier was Charles Wesley Cogswell, who served in Co. K, 27th Mass. Infantry. Photographed ca. 1862, he later had a daughter named Mabel Louise, who became the wife of Henry Alpheus Dunham (1872-1946)(9) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Nathaniel 3, Isaac 4, Calvin 5, Alpheus 6, Alpheus 7, George W. 8). ED. NOTE: Mrs. K. also has Cogswell ancestry, so this photo is of particular interest to her. How far back have you traced the Cogswell line back, Bill?

appear to be straight out of someone's parlor. Probably there wasn't any available that was more suitable for camping. It is almost certain that Henry's mother would have taught him not to tip a chair back on its hind legs & never to put his feet on a table, but in the war a moment of comfort was to be treasured any way that would be relaxing.



Henry Randall Dunham, b. Apr. 22, 1838; d. Sep 7, 1877. First Lieutenant Co. K, 141 Reg. Pa Vol. Taken during war years. He couldn't have been more than 27.

THIS STRIKING PICTURE "from the field" comes from Fidella Marty, Ames, IA, & shows her great grandfather, Henry Randall Dunham (1838-1877)(8)(Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Samuel 4, Holthum 5, John 6, John L. 7). Fidella adds that Henry R. had a younger brother, Benjamin M. Dunham, who was also a member of the PA Volunteers & who was killed at Chancellorsville in May, 1863 at the age of 23. It is interesting to note the very formal furniture the units brought with them on to the field. The chair & table appear to be straight out of someone's parlor. Probably there wasn't any available that was more suitable for camping. It is almost certain that Henry's mother would have taught him not to tip a chair back on its hind legs & never to put his feet on a table, but in the war a moment of comfort was to be treasured any way that would be relaxing.





ONE OF SEVERAL good WWI photos from Donna Hawks, Spring, TX (we'll have others in future issues), shows Rev. James Harvey Dunham (1872-1943) (9) (Deacon John 1, Benjamin 2, Rev. Edmund 3, Rev. Jonathan 4, Rev. Jonathan 5, Jonathan 6, Nahum 7, Samuel 8), who was a 1st Lieut. Chaplain. He remained in the Officers' Reserve Corps until 1930, & he was buried in Arlington Nat'l Cemetery with full military honors.

A TON OF GOOD THINGS has arrived from Bob A. Dunham, Madison, WI, among them this great portrait of his dad, Arthur Dunham (4) (William 1, Charles R. 2, Arthur F. 3). Arthur was a radio man (RM1/C) in the Navy during WWII, having enlisted on his 17th birthday, Dec. 7, 1942, the 1st anniversary of Pearl Harbor. He served in the American, European, & Pacific theatres & was involved in 5 invasions in the Pacific while serving on the USS Knox, including the battle for the Leyte Gulf. He received 11 ribbons during his tenure in the Navy. --- You will note that William Dunham is in the No. 1 position in this line. William is Bob's great great grandfather & the mystery man of his line. Nothing is known for certain about this ancestor, except that he had a son Charles born in 1879, probably in Ohio. (We'd suggest a perusal of the 1890 Ohio Soundex at this point, to see if more couldn't be learned about William from that source.) ---Incidentally, we now have 2 Bob Dunhams, both of Madison, WI, on our mailing list. Sure hope we don't get them mixed up! At least they have different middle initials -- to lessen the confusion.





RIGHT- SNAPPED IN AUGUST 1944 on the Ashbury, NJ, boardwalk, these 2 sisters posed on either side of their brother. The 3 are: (L to R) Mary E. Messler Jamieson (1903-1984); David B. Messler, Jr. (1907-1962); & Alma Messler Keane (1911-1985). They belong to the 5th generation of their known Dunham ancestry, the 1st-4 being: 1/ Richardson Dunham, Sr. (1760-1841); 2/ Richardson, Jr. (1796-1864); 3/ Jesse L. (b. 1844); 4/ Clara E. Dunham Messler (1866-1924). P. C. Alger, Derry, NH, who shared the photo, is a granddaughter of Mary. Her great uncle, David Messler, was in WWII as a cryptologist & served in Africa in the campaign against Rommel, the infamous Desert Fox. P.C. relates an interesting story about the watch, seen here on David's wrist, which he wore all through his service years. Some time after David died in a 1962 car accident, his watch was given to P. C.'s son upon the occasion of his graduation from Jr. High school. A 21-jewel Hamilton, the watch still looked good except for a badly scratched & pitted crystal. P. C. took it to a friend who dealt in old clocks & watches, hoping to replace the crystal & get it going again. She told him what she knew of the history of the watch. When she went to pick it up, her friend handed her a zip-lock sandwich bag, with sand in it instead of a sandwich. Yes, this sand (from the African desert) had been blown so hard that it pitted the crystal & clogged the working parts of the watch. Sand removed, the watch worked fine. However, these tiniest mementoes of World War II weren't thrown out; they are still preserved, plus the old watch crystal, in a mounted keepsake box.



SPECIAL THANKS go to those cousins who have recently sent financial contributions to the DISPATCH. Circulation has doubled within the past 6 months, & it looked as if the increased costs would necessitate dropping down to an every-other-month publication schedule. Your contributions have at least staved off the time when that will happen.

Also, apologies to those who sent military items that could not be included in this issue. Please do not think they are not appreciated; they are. The delay is only due to the fact that a 29-cent stamp will carry a maximum of 5 pages.